

Romania Seminar
22-25 May 2006
Recommended External Presenters

The following three programs are recommended to make a presentation at the Romania Seminar because they have characteristics of good practices models that are associated with effective and efficient services for community-based programs for women-headed households (lone-parent families). The fourth external presentation will be made by Maja Ohlsson representing the Lärjedalen District of Göteborg, Sweden.

Two of the recommended programs as representative of good practice models for women-headed families are: 1) Thurrock Community Mothers Programme in England, and 2) Mother Centres in Germany and Bosnia. Both of these programs are particularly strong enablers of self-help and inclusion for women headed families within a community support system.

Mother Centres are primarily located in Germany with a central office in Stuttgart. A relatively new program in Zavidovici, Bosnia has been identified by the home office of the Mother Centres as a model program for a developing society.

The third agency listed below is the NONOS Project in Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Italy. This project provides services to the elderly. Its appeal for the Romania Seminar is its focus on community-based services and its experience in addressing the needs of marginalized populations.

Good Practice Models

Thurrock Community Mothers Programme

Websites: <http://www.communitymothers.org.uk/pro-home.html>
<http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/socialinclusion/parents/goodpractice.html#Thurrock>

The CMP is a community development initiative that involves the recruitment and training of experienced and trustworthy mothers from disadvantaged areas to promote community health and the development of early parenting skills within their own communities through a semi-structured home visiting programme.

Thurrock Community Mothers Programme
23-25 Calcutta Road
Tilbury, Essex RM18 7QT

Phone: 01375 858512
Fax: 01375 858513
Email: communitymothers@btconnect.com

Mother Centre “Pleman” in Zavidovici, Bosnia

Websites: http://www.muetterforum.de/mediadb/Mutterforum/en/lb_forum.pdf
<http://www.awid.org/print.php?pg=go.php&args=stid=1395>

Mother centers are family self help organizations, open to all, and developed and administered by the women and families who use them.

The four cornerstones of the mother center concept are complete accessibility, expertise through life-learning, compensation for volunteer work, and the inclusion of children in the centers' activities.

The heart of the mother center is the coffee parlor, continually open to all visitors. Around this core a wide range of family and community services, counseling services, and a diversity of childcare programs are offered.

Activities in the mother center are determined by the individual needs of mothers and families and by circumstances in the community. These activities often offer concrete and creative answers to needs left unanswered by local social welfare offices and institutions.

In the center mothers are their own experts; they bring with them their own life experience and professional qualifications and thus make of the mother center a place of learning from and with each other.

The Chair of the Mother Centre International Network, Monika Jaeckel, informed me by email that she recently completed a documentation on demonstration projects and that one that scored 100% is the Mother Centre “Plamen” (Flame) in Zavidovici, Bosnia.

Contact:

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Ms. Dzankic does not speak English. She speaks Bosnian or German. However, there are English speaking women in the group.

NONOS Project – Friuli-Venezia Giulia Italy

Website: There is a slide presentation on this project on the web at http://www.socialeurope.com/pdfs/edinburgh/workshoppresentations/Tuesday%20afternoon/Friuli_english.ppt#463,2. The slide show has much more information than would be required for a presentation at the seminar in Romania. The focus would have to be greatly sharpened and shortened to emphasize the good practice characteristics.

This project is a partnership between the public and service sectors to develop a community welfare system for the elderly in Friuli-Venezia Giulia. It has strong elements of self-help, partnership with non-profit sector, informal support system, integration with health and social services, community networks, assessment, training, and community building.

Contact:

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I don't have any additional contact information for Giulio Antonini. I have sent an email to Piero Pullini requesting an email address for Mr. Antonini. If that doesn't work, perhaps Ági could call Mr. Pullini at the number below:

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Submitted by Martin B. Tracy
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